is yellow, excepting a few small black spots. The feet and tail vary equally with the other parts, and I have sometimes seen them, as well as the neck, almost entirely of a rich bright scarlet colour.

The head is large and broad, the upper jaw strong and hooked at the point, but without a denticulated margin; the eyes are large and prominent; the feet are more club-shaped than in any other species of the family, and consequently less adapted for swimming; the tail is very small, but sufficiently conspicuous to prove that it must have been from a mutilated specimen that Linnæus gave the character of "caudâ nullâ."

The first variety, *nebulosa*, differs from the normal character in the more oblong form of the shell, but especially in the very indistinct and clouded character of the markings: the second, *maculata*, which is also *Testudo virgulata* of Daudin, differs in the almost globular form of the shell—which is nearly as broad as it is long,—and in the spots being of a light yellow, and having a distinct outline upon an uniform black ground. I have now twelve specimens of the different varieties before me; and, were the two extremes to be examined without any intervening ones, it would be impossible not to consider these as distinct; the intermediate variations both of form and colour are, however, sufficient at once to show that they all belong to one species.

In the elevated form of the shell, and the thick clubbed feet, this species bears an evident relation to the family of the *Testudinidæ;* an approximation which is equally borne out by its habits; for we learn that although it is occasionally found in marshy places, it never seeks the water, and that it even frequents the driest and hottest situations. Its food also, although partly derived, as in the rest of the *Emydidæ*, from the animal kingdom,—as beetles, snails, small mice, or even serpents,—consists also of various kinds of vegetables. In the account of this genus, I have stated at length the grounds upon which I have considered it as closely approximating to the terrestrial forms; and I may here observe that the present species possesses those characters in a higher degree than any other of the genus.

A few synonyms which have been erroneously given as belonging to this species, require to be corrected. "La courte-queue" of Lacépède has almost always been considered as identical with *Terrapene clausa*; but this author

says that a specimen of the shell in the Paris Museum is ten inches and six lines in length, and nearly nine inches broad; dimensions which are fully double those of the present species. The description is in other respects so slight as to afford no clue to the species intended, so that there really appears to be no reason for even believing it to be a box tortoise at all. The Prince of Musignano, in his "Osservazioni sulla Seconda Edizione del Regno Animale" identifies my *Terrapene bicolor* with this; it is however, in fact, *T. amboinensis*. The species called "La tortue noirâtre" and *Testudo nigricans* by different authors, is also given by the Prince in his list of the synonyms of this species; whereas it is a *Sternothærus*, and probably identical with my *St. Leachianus*. Mr. Gray has quoted as a synonym "*Terrapene guttata* Bell"; but as I never applied such a name to any species, I presume that author intended "*T. maculata*."

We are informed that *Terrapene clausa* inhabits North America from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Florida*. It prefers dry situations, living principally in mountains, woods and pine forests. It is eaten, though its flesh is but little esteemed; but its eggs, which are of the size of a pigeon's, are said to be delicious. Its food, as has been before observed, is various, and partakes of the nature of the land and fresh-water families. It is stated that it may be made useful in gardens, by destroying snails and small mice. It has been known to live forty-six years, according to the authority of Muhlenberg, as quoted by Daudin.

* Ch. Bonaparte, l. c.